

FEB 24 1999

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Before The

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Washington, DC

In The Matter Of)
A Terrestrial Digital)
Radio Service)

Docket No. RM-9395

CORRECTIVE SUPPLEMENTAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
OF THE AMHERST ALLIANCE

THE AMHERST ALLIANCE is an organization of individuals and groups who seek expanded access to the airwaves for everyday Americans. Founded in Amherst, Massachusetts on September 17, 1998, The Alliance advocates establishment of a Low Power Radio Service AND adoption of the recent FCC Staff Recommendations for divestiture of certain radio stations.

We are filing these **Corrective** Supplemental Comments in order to dispel a misimpression contained in the Reply Comments of the Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association (CEMA). In its Reply Comments, CEMA misconstrues a position taken in the Written Comments of The Amherst Alliance.

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Specifically: CEMA reports, incorrectly, that The Amherst Alliance favors the Eureka-147 Digitalization technology over the IBOC Digitalization technology.

This is **not** the case. The Alliance believes **all** reasonable alternatives to IBOC should be carefully considered, "notably including the Eureka-147 technology".

Urging "careful consideration" of Eureka-147 is not **endorsing** Eureka-147.

The truth is: Some of our Members favor a **modified** IBOC. Other Members favor Eureka-147. We stand with our Members.

In any case, the differing views of our Members on IBOC versus Eureka-147 should not obscure our **united** assertion that Digitalization, **if** adopted, should be designed so that newly licensed Low Power Radio stations are shielded from displacement. This protection should include relaxed channel spacing requirements **if** IBOC is chosen. Whether the FCC selects IBOC, Eureka-147, a third system or no Digitalization at all, it makes no sense for the Commission to license Low Power stations -- only to allow their displacement a few years later.

Our Members **also** speak as one in counseling against "a rush to judgment".

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To this end, we wish to clarify the record by making **explicit** our implied support for issuance of a Notice of Inquiry **before** any Proposed Rule is issued.

The process of a Notice of Inquiry will permit "careful consideration" of competing technologies **before** the FCC proposes **any** single system for implementation.

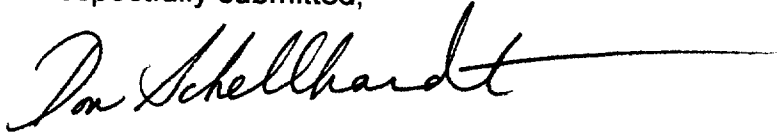
In addition, the FCC has issued -- on January 28, 1999 -- a Proposed Rule to establish a Low Power Radio Service, perhaps as early as this summer. With the time it spends productively in gathering information through the NOI, the Commission will be able to fashion a PROPOSED Rule on Digitalization **after** it has decided the provisions of its FINAL Rule to establish Low Power Radio.

Since Digitalization must be reconciled with Low Power Radio, the text of a Final LPRS Rule may be **indispensable** in drafting a Proposed Digitalization Rule.

For the reasons set forth herein, we urge the Commission to: (1) correct the record with respect to CEMA's mistaken report that The Amherst Alliance endorses Eureka-147; and (2) clarify the record to remove any doubt regarding our support for a Notice Of Inquiry **prior to** issuance of any Proposed Rule.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Copies of these Corrective Supplemental Comments have been sent to all parties who sent copies of THEIR Reply Comments to The Amherst Alliance.

Dated: February 12, 1999